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ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Engineering Alums Help Develop Mars Rover

A pair of Cal Poly grads received media recognition over the summer for their parts in developing the Mars rover Curiosity that NASA landed on the red planet in August. Rius Billing (BS, 1999, Engineering Technology), director of engineering for Alliance Spacesystems, was [featured in the Visalia Times-Delta](#) for his work in helping design a key robotic arm on the rover. And Matthew Bush (BS, Mechanical Engineering, 2008) [was featured in the Santa Maria Times](#) for his work with Helical Products Company developing couplers and springs for the vehicle.



Economics Grad Named Bank VP

[BusinessWire announced](#) that William Sloan (BS, Economics, 1983) had been named an executive vice president of California United Bank. Sloan has been with the bank since its 2005 inception, said President David Ranier, “and his leadership in the Santa Clarita market, as well as his management of real estate lending, has been integral to our success.” [California United Bank](#) has 10 locations throughout Southern California.

Wine-Vit Grad’s Cheese Company Getting Attention

Daniel Turkovich (BS, Wine and Viticulture, 2008) and his Winters Cheese Company were [featured in the Daily Democrat](#) in Woodland, Calif. Winters founded the company in 2009 and opened a tasting room the following year. He hopes to expand soon with his own creamery as his uncommon cheeses continue to earn a positive reputation.

Public Policy Grad Tapped to Lead SLO County

Dan Buckshi (Master of Public Policy, 2009) was chosen as the new chief administrative officer of San Luis Obispo County in July, [New Times reported](#). Buckshi had served as assistant chief administrator since 2009.

Business Grad Produces Indie Film

Vladimir Lisinac (BS, Business Administration, 2005), has produced “Along the Roadside,” a romantic comedy set for a 2013 release through their Metakwon Filmworks partnership, [according to American Banking News](#). Lisinac’s brother, Zoran, directed the film, which stars Michael Madsen (“Reservoir Dogs,” “Kill Bill”). It tells the story of two young people from different parts of the world, whose cultures clash on a journey of self-discovery during the drive to a famous California music festival.

Engineering Grad Now in the Restaurant Business

Matthew Pearce (BS, Civil Engineering, 2007) and his new restaurant Old San Luis BBQ in San Luis Obispo, [were featured in New Times](#). Pearce made the jump to the restaurant business after working as an engineer at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant near San Luis Obispo. While working as an engineering, he honed is barbecue skills selling food at farmers markets and doing catering jobs.

Civil Engineering Grad Named San Carlos Public Works Chief

Jay Walter (BS, Civil Engineering, 1983) has been named public works director for the city of San Carlos, Calif., [the San Mateo Patch reported](#). Walter has held the same position with the city of San Luis Obispo for more than seven years. Before that, he worked for more than two decades for Caltrans, where he rose to the level of district director for the Central Coast area.

Kinesiology Grad Takes Missions Trip to Peru

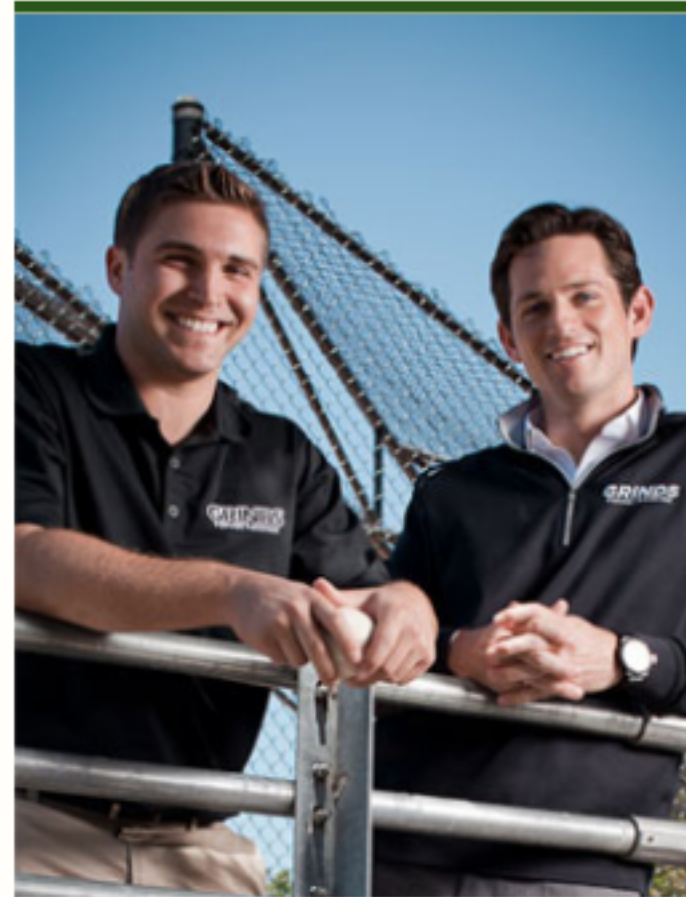
[The Inland Valley Daily Bulletin reported](#) on Mike Fauce (BS, Kinesiology, 2008) who along with a group of fellow Los Angeles College of Chiropractics students spent the summer raising funds for a mission trip to Peru in August to provide medical care to residents in depressed areas. Fauce and his colleagues hoped their trip would provide aid to the less fortunate while helping give greater positive exposure to their chosen profession.

Computer Science Master’s Grad to Oversee Florida Special Effects Operation

Digital Domain Media Group hired Jim Berney (MS, Computer Science, 1994) to be head of studio at DDMG in Florida, overseeing day-to-day operations of the company’s studio, [BusinessWire reported](#). The studio creates visual effects for feature films, military and medical applications, sports teams and venues, and original animated features. Berney is an academy award nominee who previously played a leadership role at Sony Pictures Imageworks’ New Mexico studio.

Business Administration Grad Named VP of Audio Company

Stephen Thesing (BS, Business Administration, 1985) was named vice president of Marketing and Business Development of Parametric Sound Corporation, [reported Sys-Con Media](#). Thesing brings more than two decades of experience in the development of global marketing programs and revenue streams for high-grown tech companies to Parametric, which is a leading innovator of directed audio products and solutions.



Grinds

Buisness grads Matt Canepa and Pat Pezet have a new kind of chew for Major League Baseball players.

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WOW slideshow

See images from this year’s Week of Welcome, as new students got to know their university and their community.

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Alumni in the News

A pair of Cal Poly Engineering grads helped build separate components of the Curiosity rover that landed on Mars in August and is currently exploring the red planet. Read about these and other accomplishments by our alumni.

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Looking ahead

President Jeffrey D. Armstrong talks about the indomitable spirit of the Cal Poly family and the positive momentum that has the university starting the new academic year strong.

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